

***AFRICAN-AMERICANS  
IN THE TOWN OF HUNTINGTON  
The Early Years***

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*Produced by  
Stanley B. Klein, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science and  
Antonia S. Mattheou, Huntington Town Archivist*

*Jo-Ann Raia, Town Clerk/RMO*

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## ***SLAVERY***

### ***Under the Dutch***

Even before the British arrived in this area, the Dutch West India Company had introduced slavery. As early as 1626 eleven male Africans were brought to Manhattan followed in 1628 by three female Africans. The Dutch West India Company's means of capturing the Africans was either in war or by removing them from Spanish or Portuguese privateers.

By the time the British captured New Netherlands from the Dutch in 1664, there was resistance to the use of slaves in New Netherlands. In fact, on February 25, 1664 the original slaves and their wives were granted conditional release but were required to return services or cash on demand for the rest of their lives.

### ***The English take New Netherlands***

As a result of the treaty of 1664 ownership rights of slaves were transferred to the English, thereby formalizing slavery for all but the original eleven. In the Laws of 1665 slaves were described as chattel property so that their servitude was involuntary, indefinite and capable of being transferred through the laws of heredity. This first code also reversed the Dutch system in which slaves could be and were legally married. Under the English, slave marriages and families were not legal entities.

Starting in 1672 the Royal African Company, an English company, secured a monopoly on supplying slaves to British North America. New York Colony tried to restrict the flow of slaves into the colony in the 1680's by taxing imported slaves. This was not very effective since there was a lively smuggling industry in slaves. Thus, all records of slave imports are subject to close scrutiny since they do not reveal the total number of slaves actually brought into the colony.

During the period from 1664 and 1776 most of the people in Huntington who were slave owners had only one slave. There is some evidence that the Lloyd family of Lloyd Harbor may have had as many as 14 slaves at any one time. That would make them the owners of the largest number of slaves.

The American Revolution created confusion in the slave ranks. Some slaves who were held by patriots escaped to New York City. Some slaves were abandoned by loyalists who escaped to Canada and these slaves also went to New York City. Some of these slaves in New York City joined together and called themselves the Royal African Regiment or the Ethiopian Regiment. In Huntington the British Army, which moved in August 1776, took 53 "Negroes" in the early stage of the occupation which lasted until 1783. In the militia lists for the period of the war there is a notation in one set of bills for a "negro's" labor a part of the charge. This would indicate that not all slaves had either left for New York City or been taken by the British.

### ***Manumission***

In 1788 New York State passed a law with provisions for the protection of manumitted slaves. The fact that it was necessary to adopt such a law was that there were a substantial number of manumitted persons for whose welfare this law was enacted. The law provided that the Overseers of the Poor were to report that the manumitted slave was under 50 years of age if male, 45 if female, and that they were capable of being self-supporting. If a manumitted person ceased to be self-supporting then the person was to become the former owner's responsibility not the Overseers of the Poor. In the Town of Huntington this law resulted in at least 5 slaves being manumitted:

| <b><i>Owner</i></b>      | <b><i>Slave</i></b>         | <b><i>Date of manumission</i></b> | <b><i>Page</i></b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| John Brush               | Peter, male under 50        | 25 September 1793                 | 620                |
| Thomas Wicks             | Pat, female under 50        | 1 March 1794                      | 621                |
| Christopher Meng         | Elishabe, female under 50   | 8 May 1794                        | 622                |
| Debora Conklin           | Siah Conklin, male under 50 | 12 June 1795                      | 623                |
| John Brush<br>(deceased) | Absolom, male under 50      | 3 April 1797                      | 630                |

*(from Land Deeds, vol. 111)*

In 1799 New York State passed a second law that actually provided for a method of manumission, although gradually. The act said that a child born to a slave after July 4, 1799 would be born free, but male children would remain in the employ of the master until age 28 and females until they were 25. However, the owner could "abandon" them at birth and they would then become the wards of the Overseer of the Poor until they reached maturity. All such children born after July 4, were to be registered with the Town Clerk and the owners' decision to abandon or not had to be made at that time. The records indicate that there were 79 slaves affected by the laws: 1 died at birth, 19 children were kept and 10 were abandoned; also 50 adults were manumitted. In all, the names of 75 slave owners are identified for the said slaves. This reinforces the 1 slave per family relationship mentioned earlier.

(!!!insert birth records)

In 1822 the New York State Constitution went into effect and provided for the end of slavery in New York State as of 1827 although new residence of New York could retain slaves for 9 years. This provision was removed by the Constitution of 1846 and slavery ended 19 years before the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

(!!!insert Ogden record)

### *Slaves Manumitted Between 1793 and 1824*

| <b>Slave</b>                      | <b>Owner</b>       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Aaron(son of Susan)               | Ruth Wood          |
| Abigail(mother of Peter)          | William Willis     |
| Absolom                           | John Brush         |
| Adam(son of Hagar)                | Abraham VanWyck    |
| Belinda                           | Martha Williams    |
| Benjamin                          | Melanethon B. Wood |
| Catherin                          | Sally Fleet        |
| Cato                              | John Gardiner      |
| Cesar                             | Gilbert Platt      |
| Charity(daughter of Margaret)     | Lemuel Carll       |
| Charity(mother of David and Dick) | Samuel Strong      |
| Charles                           | Scudder Lewis      |
| Charles                           | Titus,Rebecah and  |
|                                   | Richard Conklin    |
| Charles                           | Elizabeth Bryan    |

Charles  
 Clarissa(daughter of Tamar)  
 Darkis(mother of James)  
 David  
 David(son of Charity)  
 Dick(son of Charity)  
 Dinah  
 Dorcus  
 Elijah  
 Elishabe(Elisabe)  
 Elisha(daughter of Sarah)  
 Elus  
 Emilia(daughter of Rachel)  
 Esther  
 Experience  
  
 Female child daughter of Margaret  
 Freelove(mother of Sarah) may have  
 been sold to Isaiah Jarvis manumitted  
 6 April 1809 by Jarvis  
 George  
 Hagar(mother of Vilett, Adam and James)  
 Hannah(mother of Rachel)  
 Harry(son of Nance)  
 Harry(son of Phebe who died in childbirth)

Elizabeth and Thomas Ketcham  
 Naomi Young  
 John Gardiner  
 Jesse Rogers  
 Samuel Strong  
 Samuel Strong  
 Alexander Matthews  
 John Gardiner  
 Epenetus Sammis  
 Christopher Meng  
 Scudder Lewis  
 John Gardiner  
 Jacob Townsend  
 Jonathan Gardiner  
 Titus,Rebeca,Richard  
 and Henry Conklin  
 Richard Conkling  
 Phoebe Whitman

Alexander Campbell  
 Abraham Vanwyck Jr.  
 Epenetus Sammis  
 Jarvis Whitman  
 Zophar Brush

### *Slaves Manumitted Between 1793 and 1824*

#### **Slave**

Harry(son of Nance)  
 Harry  
 Harry  
 Harry  
 Harry  
 Havens,Charles  
 Isaac  
 Jacob  
 Jacob  
 James (born dead son of Betty)  
 James  
 James(son of Darkish)  
 James(son of Jane)  
 James(son of Hangar)  
 James  
 Jane(mother of Mahala and James)  
 Jude(daughter of Rosanna)

#### **Owner**

Jarvis Whitman  
 Phebe Whitman  
 Joshua Hartt  
 Amy Youngs  
 Thomas Roe  
 Micah Vail  
 Moses Rolph  
 Alexander Lewis  
 James Oakley  
 Scudded Lewis  
 Jonah Wood  
 John Gardener  
 David Fleet  
 Abraham VanWyck  
 Solomon Ketcham  
 David Fleet  
 Thomas Smith

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Jupiter   | Melancthon B. Wood  |
| Ketturah  | Nathaniel Buffet  |
| Lenoir  | John H. Gardener  |
| London  | Jonathan Gardener   |
| Lorrey(daughter of Peg)                                   | Selah Wood  |
| Lydia(daughter of Margaret)                               | Lemuel Carll  |
| Mahala(daughter of Jane)                                  | David Fleet   |
| Margaret or Peg   | Timothy Carll   |
| Margaret (mother of Lydia,Tamar Lemuel Carll and Charity) | Samuel Carll, Alexamder Lewis,<br>Deborah Carll and Hannah N. Carll |
| Margaret  | Jonah Wood  |
| Mary  | Naomi Young   |
| Maryann(daughter of Tamar)                                | Daniel W. Kissam  |
| Michael   | Jarvis Whitman  |
| Nance(mother of Harry)                                    | Abraham VanWyck Jr.   |
| Nann(mother of Rachel)                                    | Abraham VanWyck   |
| Nancy   | Abraham VanWyck   |
| Nanne(mother of Rebeccah)                                 | Thomas Brush  |
| Oliver(son of Persilla)                                   | Thomas Wicks  |
| Pat   | Selah Wood  |
| Peg(mother of Lorrey)                                     | Scudded Carll   |
| Peleg   | Thomas Brush  |
| Persilla(mother of Oliver)                                | William Willis  |
| Peter(son of Abagail)                                     |   |

### **Slaves Manumitted Between 1793 and 1824**

| <b>Slave</b>                      | <b>Owner</b>        |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Peter                             | John Brush          |
| Phebe(died giving birth to Harry) | Zophar Brush        |
| Plato                             | John H. Gardener    |
| Pompy                             | James Oakley        |
| Prince                            | Jonathan Gardener   |
| Prince                            | Abraham VanWyck     |
| Rachel(daughter of Hannah)        | Epenetus Sammis     |
| Rachel(mother of Emilia)          | Jacob Townsend      |
| Rachel(daughter of Nann)          | Abraham VanWyck Jr. |
| Rebecah(daughter of Nanny)        | Abraham VanWyck     |
| Richard                           | John Carll 2nd      |
| Samuel                            | Jonah Wood          |
| Sarah(mother of Elisha)           | Scudded Lewis       |
| Sarah(daughter of Freelove)       | Phoebe Whitman      |
| Sarah(mother of William)          | John Velsor         |
| Siah Conkling                     | Deborah Conklin(g)  |
| Sias                              | Joel Rogers         |
| Stephen                           | Abraham VanWyck     |
| Susan (mother of Aaron)           | Ruth Wood           |

Susan  
Susan  
Synthey  
Tamar(daughter of Margaret)  
Tamer(mother of Clarissa and Maryanne)  
Vilett(daughter of Hangar)  
William(son of Sarah)  
William  
York

Deborah Valentine  
John Wood  
Phineas Carll  
Lemuel Carll  
Naomi Young  
Abraham VanWyck Jr.  
John Velsor  
John Carll  
Ebenzer Platt

Slaves Manumitted Between 1793 and 1824

| Slave                             | Owner                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Aaron(son of Susan)               | Ruth Wood                            |
| Abigail(mother of Peter)          | William Willis                       |
| Absolom                           | John Brush                           |
| Adam(son of Hagar)                | Abraham Van Wyck                     |
| Belinda                           | Martha Williams                      |
| Benjamin                          | Melanethon B. Wood                   |
| Catherin                          | Sally Fleet                          |
| Cato                              | John Gardiner                        |
| Cesar                             | Gilbert Platt                        |
| Charity(daughter of Margaret)     | Lemuel Carll                         |
| Charity(mother of David and Dick) | Samuel Strong                        |
| Charles                           | Scudder Lewis                        |
| Charles                           | Titus,Rebecah and<br>Richard Conklin |
| Charles                           | Elizabeth Bryan                      |
| Charles                           | Elizabeth and Thomas<br>Ketcham      |
| Clarissa(daughter of Tamar)       | Naomi Young                          |
| Darkis(mother of James)           | John Gardiner                        |
| David                             | Jesse Rogers                         |
| David(son of Charity)             | Samuel Strong                        |
| Dick(son of Charity)              | Samuel Strong                        |
| Dinah                             | Alexander Matthews                   |
| Dorcus                            | John Gardiner                        |
| Elijah                            | Epenetus Sammis                      |
| Elishabe(Elisabe)                 | Christopher Meng                     |
| Elisha(daughter of Sarah)         | Scudder Lewis                        |
| Elus                              | John Gardiner                        |
| Emilia(daughter of Rachel)        | Jacob Townsend                       |
| Esther                            | Jonathan Gardiner                    |
| Experience                        | Titus,Rebeca,Richard                 |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Female child daughter of Margaret<br>Freelove(mother of Sarah) may have<br>been sold to Isaiah Jarvis<br>manumitted 6 April 1809 by<br>Jarvis | and Henry Conklin<br>Richard Conkling<br>Phoebe Whitman                |
| George<br>Hagar(mother of Vilett, Adam<br>and James)  | Alexander Campbell<br>Abraham Vanwyck Jr.                              |
| Hannah(mother of Rachel)  | Epenetus Sammis  |
| Harry(son of Nance)   | Jarvis Whitman   |
| Harry(son of Phebe who died in<br>childbirth)   | Zophar Brush   |
| Harry(son of Nance)   | Jarvis Whitman   |
| Harry   | Phebe Whitman  |
| Harry   | Joshua Hartt   |
| Harry   | Amy Youngs   |
| Harry   | Thomas Roe   |
| Havens, Charles   | Micah Vail   |
| Isaac   | Moses Rolph  |
| Jacob   | Alexander Lewis  |
| Jacob   | James Oakley   |
| James (born dead son of Betty)  | Scudded Lewis  |
| James   | Jonah Wood   |
| James(son of Darkish)   | John Gardener  |
| James(son of Jane)  | David Fleet  |
| James(son of Hangar)  | Abraham Van Wick   |
| James   | Solomon Ketcham  |
| Jane(mother of Mahala and James)  | David Fleet  |
| Jude(daughter of Rosanna)   | Thomas Smith   |
| Jupiter   | Melancthon B. Wood   |
| Ketturah  | Nathaniel Buffet   |
| Lenoir  | John H. Gardener   |
| London  | Jonathan Gardener  |
| Lorrey(daughter of Peg)   | Selah Wood   |
| Lydia(daughter of Margaret)   | Lemuel Carll   |
| Mahala(daughter of Jane)  | David Fleet  |
| Margaret or Peg   | Timothy Carll  |
| Margaret (mother of Lydia, Tamar<br>and Charity)  | Lemuel Carll   |
| Margaret  | Samuel Carll, Alexamder<br>Lewis, Deborah Carll and<br>Hannah N. Carll |
| Mary  | Jonah Wood   |
| Maryann(daughter of Tamar)  | Naomi Young  |
| Michael   | Daniel W. Kissam   |
| Nance(mother of Harry)  | Jarvis Whitman   |
| Nann(mother of Rachel)  | Abraham VanDyck Jr.  |
| Nancy   | Abraham Van Wyck   |

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Nanne(mother of Rebeccah)              | Abraham Van Wyck     |
| Oliver(son of Persilla)                | Thomas Brush         |
| Pat                                    | Thomas Wicks         |
| Peg(mother of Lorrey)                  | Selah Wood           |
| Peleg                                  | Scudder Carll        |
| Persilla(mother of Oliver)             | Thomas Brush         |
| Peter(son of Abigail)                  | William Willis       |
| Peter                                  | John Brush           |
| Phebe(died giving birth to Harry)      | Zophar Brush         |
| Plato                                  | John H. Gardiner     |
| Pompy                                  | James Oakley         |
| Prince                                 | Jonathan Gardiner    |
| Prince                                 | Abraham VanWyck      |
| Rachel(daughter of Hannah)             | Epenetus Sammis      |
| Rachel(mother of Emilia)               | Jacob Townsend       |
| Rachel(daughter of Nann)               | Abraham Van Dyck Jr. |
| Rebecah(daughter of Nanny)             | Abraham Van Wyck     |
| Richard                                | John Carll 2nd       |
| Samuel                                 | Jonah Wood           |
| Sarah(mother of Elisha)                | Scudder Lewis        |
| Sarah(daughter of Freelove)            | Phoebe Whitman       |
| Sarah(mother of William)               | John Velsor          |
| Siah Conkling                          | Deborah Conklin(g)   |
| Sias                                   | Joel Rogers          |
| Stephen                                | Abraham Van Wyck     |
| Susan (mother of Aaron)                | Ruth Wood            |
| Susan                                  | Deborah Valentine    |
| Susan                                  | John Wood            |
| Synthey                                | Phineas Carll        |
| Tamar(daughter of Margaret)            | Lemuel Carll         |
| Tamer(mother of Clarissa and Maryanne) | Naomi Young          |
| Vilett(daughter of Hagar)              | Abraham Vanwyck Jr.  |
| William(son of Sarah)                  | John Velsor          |
| William                                | John Carll           |
| York                                   |                      |

Assessment Roll 1866

| Owner           | Size   | Value | Tax |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-----|
| Clark Henry     | 1 acre | 150   | -   |
| Carman William  | 12     | 150   | -   |
| Green George    | 15     | 150   | -   |
| Havens Thomas   | 1/4    | 250   | -   |
| Mills George    | 7      | 100   | -   |
| Miller Nicholas | 10     | 150   | -   |
| Miller Samuel   | 15     | 150   | -   |
| Payne Henry     | 10     | 150   | -   |
| Payne Oliver    | 30     | 400   | -   |

|                          |         |     |   |
|--------------------------|---------|-----|---|
| Russell Henry            | 4       | 150 | - |
| Squares Isaac            | 25      | 150 |   |
| Squares Daniel           | 8       | 150 |   |
| Steel Aaron              | 5       | 150 |   |
| Wilson John              | 12      | 200 |   |
| Non-Resident             |         |     |   |
| Hunter Jamah of New Town | 4 acres | 200 |   |

### *Acknowledgements*

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Stanley B. Klein, Ph.D.  
Town Historian



***Frank P. Petrone, Supervisor***

***Marlene L. Budd, Councilwoman***  
***Mark A. Cuthbertson, Councilman***  
***Susan A. Berland, Councilwoman***  
***Stuart Besen, Councilman***

***Jo-Ann Raia, Town Clerk/RMO***

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***This pamphlet was produced for the first time in 1997, on the occasion of Black History Month. It was inspired by the ceaseless devotion of Betty J. Miller, Director, Minority Affairs, to the spirit underlying this celebration.***

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***COVER: Frederick Douglass, became the most powerful black politician in America after the Civil War. He fought against slavery and for civil rights.***  
Sketched by Maryellen Smith, Town Clerk's Department.